

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



2008 was a milestone year for the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation (TCTF). It marked the Birth Centennial Year of my father, the late banker and philanthropist Tan Chin Tuan (1908–2005). He started the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation in 1976 to offer assistance to the underprivileged and to various deserving causes.

Three decades on, the community's needs here have evolved. Most Singaporeans have a roof over their heads, and access to food and medical care. The Foundation too has evolved with the changing times and needs, to become ever more focused and measured in how it reaches out to those who most need it. While there are still distressed families to care for, we wish to help those who help them in a manner that reflects the beliefs and values of the Founder. Today, there are many commendable charities to support and offer guidance to, as well as a growing zest for volunteerism among the people which as a grant-maker, these are people and groups we wish to cultivate.

Our recent milestones include finding creative ways to redefine the philanthropic scene in Singapore. In 2006, the foundation was the first in Singapore to have an external, non-family member as Chief Executive Officer. Backing the CEO is a professional team to assess appeals guided by disciplined funding principles, and initiate programmes that share our "Philosophy of Giving". We also have a team that oversees operations at our newly conserved Tan Chin Tuan Mansion.

The development, which was the brainchild of Tan Chin Tuan, comprises the newly refurbished Conservation House and a 20-storey building, which is now a hub for business and philanthropic activities. It was awarded the URA Architectural Award in 2008.

What is TCTF's Philosophy of Giving? As catalyst and driver, not just a donor, we insist that charitable giving must have tangible outcomes; that there is a social return to the dollar donated, and there are positive multiplier effects that benefit as many groups as possible.

We experienced many firsts in 2008.

In 2008, we established the Tan Chin Tuan Centennial Fund at Nanyang Technological University (NTU). This \$10 million gift enabled the varsity to bestow the first Tan Chin Tuan Centennial Professorship at NTU to Professor Ng Wun Jern. It also led to the first Tan Chin Tuan Centennial Forum. Over 200 Chinese PRC alumni from NTU's Masters of Science in Managerial Economics "Mayor Class" travelled to Tianjin, China, to attend the Forum. The reunion not only marked Tan Chin Tuan's Birth Centennial but the 10th anniversary of a very successful long-term Tan Chin Tuan Exchange Fellowship between China and Singapore, which was made possible with the foundation's support.

The completion of our mansion enabled us to reunite with our past and present scholars from various schools in Singapore. Our popular Tête-à-Tête @ TCTF Series gave these promising youth the opportunity to renew their ties with their alma mater, familiarise themselves with Tan Chin Tuan's legacy and consider ways to give back to society.

Not forgetting the elderly, we celebrated the joy of life with the elderly in TCTF-supported charities serving the aged. Through Project WISH 100, we granted the wishes of those who were 100 years and above in seven charities, throwing memorable birthday parties for them and their families and friends. One of them was 114 years old. For another 103-year-old, it was her last birthday celebration. She has since passed away.

In ASEAN, our role has been in health and eye-care, emergency relief and humanitarian assistance. In Malaysia, Tan Sri Tan Chin Tuan Foundation partnered the Malaysian Red Crescent Society and Soka Gakkai to assist an orang asli community in Kampung Peta after severe floods affected them. In Indonesia, the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation is project leader for a consortium supporting the rebuilding of the Stella Maris General Hospital in Nias. This project is supported with funds from Singaporeans through the Tidal Waves Asia Fund, and other private donors.

Much work remains. We continue to serve those who need it most, with strong stewardship, committed staff and passionate partners.

Dr Tan Kheng Lian
Chairman, Tan Chin Tuan Foundation